

Republicans across this Nation are attempting to suppress certain predetermined populations of eligible voters. In Ohio, they are trying to limit voting by mail, which greatly affects seniors, the disabled, and students.

In 2009, in the county in which I live, Cuyahoga County, we eliminated 26 percent of all of our precincts because of the effectiveness of our vote-by-mail operation. We saved more than \$1.2 million on voting machines alone. And with fewer precincts, we save at least \$800,000 for each countywide election by having people vote by mail. Yet Republicans passed legislation that would restrict counties from mailing ballots. As a consequence, this year alone, early voting is down by one-third from last year.

With such an efficient vote-by-mail system, why would Republicans seek to eliminate mail ballots or to confuse voters? Why are Republicans pushing policies that seem to have no other objective than to disenfranchise our citizens?

□ 1210

#### SENATE NEEDS TO ACT ON FORGOTTEN 15

(Ms. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in response to the President's jobs plan, Linda Shevchuk from Carmel, New York, in my own 19th district, sent the following letter to me: "The government's first priority should be to make sure that existing programs and agencies are operating efficiently and effectively. I can't fathom how the President can ask for more revenue when there is so much waste in our government. Government needs to act more like a business. In order to succeed, a business has to operate efficiently and effectively, be innovative, set a reasonable budget, and operate within that budget."

Ms. Shevchuk, you're absolutely right. In fact, on our list of the forgotten 15 bills that we need the Senate to act on right away, there is the budget for fiscal year 2012. It has now been 918 days since the American people received a budget for the Federal Government because our Senate has not yet acted.

Please call your Senators across the country—and, Ms. Shevchuk, call our Senators from New York—and ask them to act on the forgotten 15, including the budget for fiscal year 2012, so that we can free our economy, free our hardworking American taxpayers, and get us all back to work.

#### WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I spoke yesterday with a very well-known

Cleveland talk show host, Mike Trivisonno, who told me he and his listeners, who are many, are concerned that an al Qaeda flag is flying over the courthouse in Benghazi, Libya. It was put there by the same group that we helped to oust the Qadhafi regime.

Trivisonno is right. U.S. soldiers died fighting al Qaeda in Afghanistan, but in Libya we enabled al Qaeda to raise their flag? Will al Qaeda now have access to Libya's oil wealth thanks to the U.S.-led invasion?

Months ago I raised this question about elements of al Qaeda reportedly being involved with so-called rebels. This administration looked the other way. Why? What are we doing?

Our international policies are a diversion from our disastrous domestic policies: 14 million unemployed, millions of small businesses at risk, millions of homes at risk, Social Security at risk.

Wake up, America. The administration just helped elements of al Qaeda knock off one of the world's leading oil producers. Their flag flies over Benghazi. It's time for us to get out of these foreign adventures and start taking care of things here at home.

#### SONGWRITERS' TAX LEGISLATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about legislation I'm introducing dealing with tax options for songwriters and music publishers. The Songwriters Tax Simplification Reauthorization Act reinstates the ability of American music publishers and self-published songwriters to elect to use a 5 year, 20 percent per year amortization schedule. We had this tax option from 2005 to 2010. Inadvertently, it wasn't reauthorized.

Under current law, tax options available to songwriters and publishers are unworkable, obsolete, and cost-prohibitive. This creates a disincentive to new investment at a time when the music industry is under assault from illegal piracy online and as they are fighting to retain and create jobs.

A 16-year-old singer-songwriter named Bonner Black from Hot Rock, Tennessee, came to Washington last month to build support for this idea. Her dream is the American dream—to write songs that inspire and entertain us. We need this legislation to make certain songwriting remains a part of the American dream.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S AMERICAN JOBS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the President's American Jobs Act because America's

small businesses need this legislation now to grow and hire new workers. Creating jobs and strengthening the economy is my highest priority, and I strongly urge this Congress to remain focused on these goals because they are the most pressing challenges facing Americans today.

The President's American Jobs Act will cut the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of small businesses. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that cutting of the payroll tax is one of the most effective job-creating measures. In addition, the President's proposal will completely eliminate payroll taxes for businesses that add new workers. This incentive is directly targeted to encourage small businesses to hire new workers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put partisan politics aside and pass this legislation now because American families and small businesses are in need of jobs now.

#### THE FORGOTTEN 15

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Well, with a national government seemingly incapable of confronting a mountain range of debt and a national media preoccupied with politics, I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, as I travel across the State of Indiana, one thing is clear: In the city or on the farm, Hoosier families are hurting. Unemployment in the State of Indiana is a heartbreaking 8.9 percent, and Hoosiers want action on jobs.

Now, the President is traveling around the country talking about his legislation. He says that the American people can't wait to take action on jobs, and let me just say, I couldn't agree more. The good news is House Republicans have a plan, and House Republicans have taken action.

Since the first of this year, House Republicans have passed no less than 15 different pieces of legislation to create jobs in America. These are common-sense, bipartisan bills that have passed the House of Representatives and are now languishing in the Senate. We call them the forgotten 15. Among the forgotten 15 is legislation to increase domestic energy production, reduce the harmful Federal regulatory burden on jobs, help unemployed veterans, and the rest.

I urge my colleagues in the other body to take action on the forgotten 15. We can't wait. Let's take the measures necessary to put Americans back to work.

#### END CHINESE CURRENCY MANIPULATION

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited two factories in my district in Woonsocket, Rhode Island—a